

Komi language

The **Komi language** (/ˈkoʊmi/^[3] endonym: коми кыв, tr. *komi kyv* /komi kɨv/) is a Uralic language spoken by the Komi peoples in the northeastern European part of Russia. Komi may be considered a single language with several dialects, or a group of closely related languages,^[4] making up one of the two branches of the Permic branch of the Uralic family. The other Permic language is Udmurt, to which Komi is closely related.

Of the several Komi dialects or languages, two major varieties are recognized, closely related to one another: Komi-Zyrian, the largest group, serves as the literary basis within the Komi Republic; and Komi-Permyak (also called Permyak), spoken in Komi-Permyak Okrug, where it has literary status. A third variety, Komi-Yodzyak is spoken by a small, isolated group of Komi to the north-west of Perm Krai and south of the Komi Republic.

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Dialects

There are three literary standard varieties of Komi:

- Standard Komi-Zyrian (often called simply Komi), based on the dialect of Syktывkar, the capital of the Komi republic.
- Standard Komi-Permyak, based on the Southern (Kudymkar) /v/ dialect but the usage of /v/~// is invented artificially from /v/~// (Komi-Zyrian) dialects.
- Standard Komi-Yazva, it was long considered to be a dialect of Komi-Permyak, but has many unique features, so in 2003 the independent Komi-Yazva alphabet has been introduced.

Komi	
<i>КОМУ КЫВ</i>	
Native to	Russia
Region	Komi Republic, Perm Krai (Komi-Permyak Okrug, Krasnovishersky District), Kirov oblast (Afanasyevsky District)
Ethnicity	Komis
Native speakers	220,000 (2010 census) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Uralic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Komi</div>
Dialects	Komi-Zyrian <div>Komi-Permyak</div> <div>Komi-Yodzyak</div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
Writing system	Komi alphabets (Cyrillic <div>Old Permic (historical))</div>
Official status	
Official language in	 Russia <div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Komi </div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-1	kv (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?iso_639_1=kv)
ISO 639-2	kom (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=240)

According to Lytkin (1966:44-49; 1976:106–115) and Teplyashina (1976:106–115) the Komi language divided into four principal dialect groups or types depending on the development of Proto-Komi **l*.

1. L-type dialects (Kosa-Sysola) retain *l* in all positions.

- Luza-Letka (L-1)
- Upper Sysola (L-2)
- Middle Sysola (L-3)
 - Pechora (descended from Middle Sysola) (L-4)
- Komi-Yazva (L-5)
- Komi-Permyak
 - Northern (Middle Kama) group of dialects (L-6)
 - Zyuzdino (Upper Kama) dialect (L-7)

2. VL-type dialects (Vycheгда) vocalize syllable-final **l* into */v/*. This creates morphophonological alternation between */v/* and *l* in stem-final position.

- Upper Vycheгда (VL-1)
- Syktyvkar (**Standard Komi-Zyrian**) (VL-2)
- Lower Vycheгда (VL-3)
- Udora (VL-4)

3. ØL-type dialects (Izhma) also vocalize syllable-final **l*, but with compensatory lengthening, resulting in a long vowel. This results in similar morphophonological alternations as in the previous group.

- Vym (ØL-1)
- Izhma (ØL-2)

4. V-type dialects (Inva) vocalize **l* into */v/* in all positions.

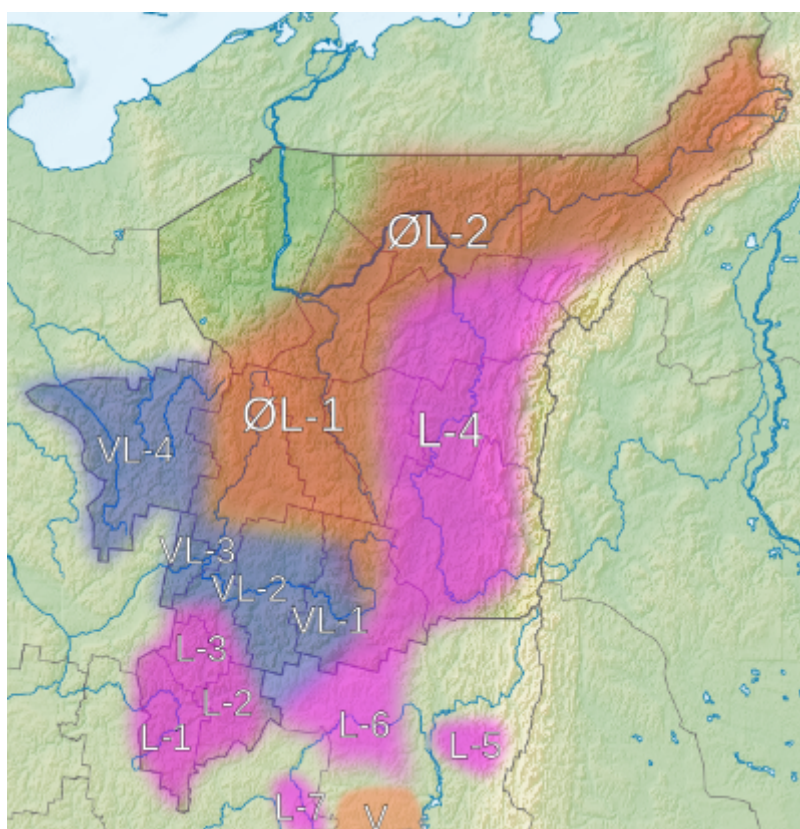
- Southern group (**Standard Komi-Permyak**) of dialects (V)

ISO 639-3

kom – inclusive code
Individual codes:
koi – Komi-Permyak
kpv – Komi-Zyrian

Glottolog

komi1267 (<http://glottolog.org/resource/lan/guoid/id/komi1267>)^[2]



- ☐ *l* type
- ☐ */v/*~*l* type
- ☐ zero~*l* type
- ☐ */v/* type

Position of *l	L-dialects	VL-dialects	V-dialects	ØL-dialects	translation
Word-final	вӧл /vəl/	вӧв /vəv/		вӧӧ /və : /	'horse'
Syllable-final	вӧлтӧр /vəltəg/	вӧвтӧр /vəvtəg/		вӧӧтӧр /və : təg/	'without a horse'
Word-medial	вӧлӧн /vələn/		вӧвӧн /vəvən/	вӧлӧн /vələn/	'with a horse, on a horse'
Word-initial	лым /lɪm/		вым /vɪm/	лым /lɪm/	'snow'

This division does not clearly correspond with the division into Zyrian, Permyak and Yazva dialects. Komi-Permyak itself divided into three dialects: two /l/ types, Northern (Middle Kama) and Zyuzdino (Upper Kama) and one /v/ type, Southern near Kudymkar, the capital of the Komi-Permyak Okrug.

Writing system

The first writing system, the Old Permic script, was invented in the 14th century by the missionary Stepan Khrap, apparently of a Komi mother in Veliky Ustyug. The alphabet shows some similarity to medieval Greek and Cyrillic. In the 16th century this alphabet was replaced by the Russian alphabet with certain modifications for affricates. In the 1920s, the language was written in Molodtsov alphabet, also derived from Cyrillic. In the 1930s it was switched to Latin script. Since the 1940s the Komi alphabet was simply changed to the Russian alphabet, albeit with the addition of I, i and Ӗ, ӓ.

The Molodtsov alphabet

А а	Б б	В в	Г г	Ӕ ӥ	Ӧ ӧ	Е е	Ж ж	Ӧ ӧ	З з	Ӧ ӧ
Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ
Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ

Letters particular to the Molodtsov alphabet include Ӕ, ӥ, Ӧ, ӧ, Ӧ, ӧ, Ӧ, ӧ, where the hooks represent palatalization.

The modern Cyrillic alphabet

А а	Б б	В в	Г г	Д д	Е е	Ё ё	Ж ж	З з
И и	Ӧ ӧ	Ӧ ӧ	К к	Л л	М м	Н н	О о	Ӗ ӓ
П п	Р р	С с	Т т	У у	Ф ф	Х х	Ц ц	Ч ч
Ш ш	Щ щ	Ъ ъ	Ы ы	Ь ь	Э э	Ю ю	Я я	

In addition, the letters Ф ф, Х х, and Ц ц might be used for words borrowed from Russian.

The first book published in Komi was a vaccination manual published in 1815.^[5]

Grammar

For a closer presentation, see Komi grammar

Komi has seven vowels: close /i/, /ɨ/, /u/, mid /e/, /ə/, /o/ and low /a/. It has 17 cases, with a rich inventory of locative cases. Like other Uralic languages, Komi has no gender. Verbs agree with subjects in person and number (sg/pl). Negation is expressed with an auxiliary verb, which is inflected for person, number and tense.

Komi is an agglutinative language and adheres to a subject–object–verb order.^[6]

Gallery



Komi language

A sample of the Komi language words. Upper "Улица Коммунистическая" is in Russian, lower "Коммунистическӧй улича" is in Komi. Both mean "Communist street". This picture was taken in Syktyvkar, the capital of Komi Republic

Trilingual (Russian, Komi and English) sign in a hotel in Ukhta, Komi Republic

Notes

1. Komi (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/kom/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015) Komi-Permyak (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/koi/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015) Komi-Zyrian (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/kpv/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Komi" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/komi1267>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. "Dictionary.com" (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/komi?s=t>).
4. Saunders, Robert A.; Strukov, Vlad (2010). *Historical Dictionary of the Russian Federation* (<https://archive.org/details/historicaldictio00saun/page/n772>). Scarecrow Press. pp. 724 (<https://archive.org/details/historicaldictio00saun/page/n772>). ISBN 9780810854758.
5. Taagepera, Rein (1999). *The Finno-Ugric Republics and the Russian State*. C, Hurst & Co. p. 313.

6. [1] (https://books.google.com/books?id=qaSdffgD9t4C&pg=PA14&lpg=PA14&dq=Komi+word+order&source=bl&ots=uH3Jv3XzcU&sig=kBI-1a4U27h0srXd5DxdAfT6jVQ&hl=en&sa=X&ei=PBsMT-HrOoforQf8xOG0BA&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=Komi%20word%20order&f=false)

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 - = Lytkin, V. I.; Teplyashina, T. I. "The Permian languages". *The Fundamentals of Fenno-Ugric linguistics*. (The Academy of Sciences of the USSR.) Vol. 3. Moscow: Nauka, 1976.
- Современный коми язык / Под ред. проф. В. И. Лыткина. — Сыктывкар: Коми книжное издательство, 1955.
 - = Lytkin, V. I. (ed.) *The contemporary Komi language*. Syktyvkar, 1966.

External links

- Komi gzhod (<http://komikyv.org/>), an Electronic Library by FU-Lab in Syktyvkar, Komi Republic (texts in Komi-Zyrian and Komi-Permyak),
- Electronic Library (<http://library.finugor.ru/Finno-Ugric>) by the Finno-Ugric Information Center in Syktyvkar (interface in Russian and English, texts in Mari, Komi, Udmurt, Erzya and Moksha languages),
- Komi-Russian dictionary (<http://foto11.com/komi/vocabular/>)
- Komi Zyrian – Finnish/English dictionary (<https://web.archive.org/web/20160607164410/http://kyv.oahpa.no/>) (robust finite-state, open-source)

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